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# the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

NO! IT CAN'T  
BE TRUE! I'VE FINALLY  
MANAGED TO UNMASK  
THE HOBGOBLIN!

BUT, IT  
CAN'T BE...  
HIM!!

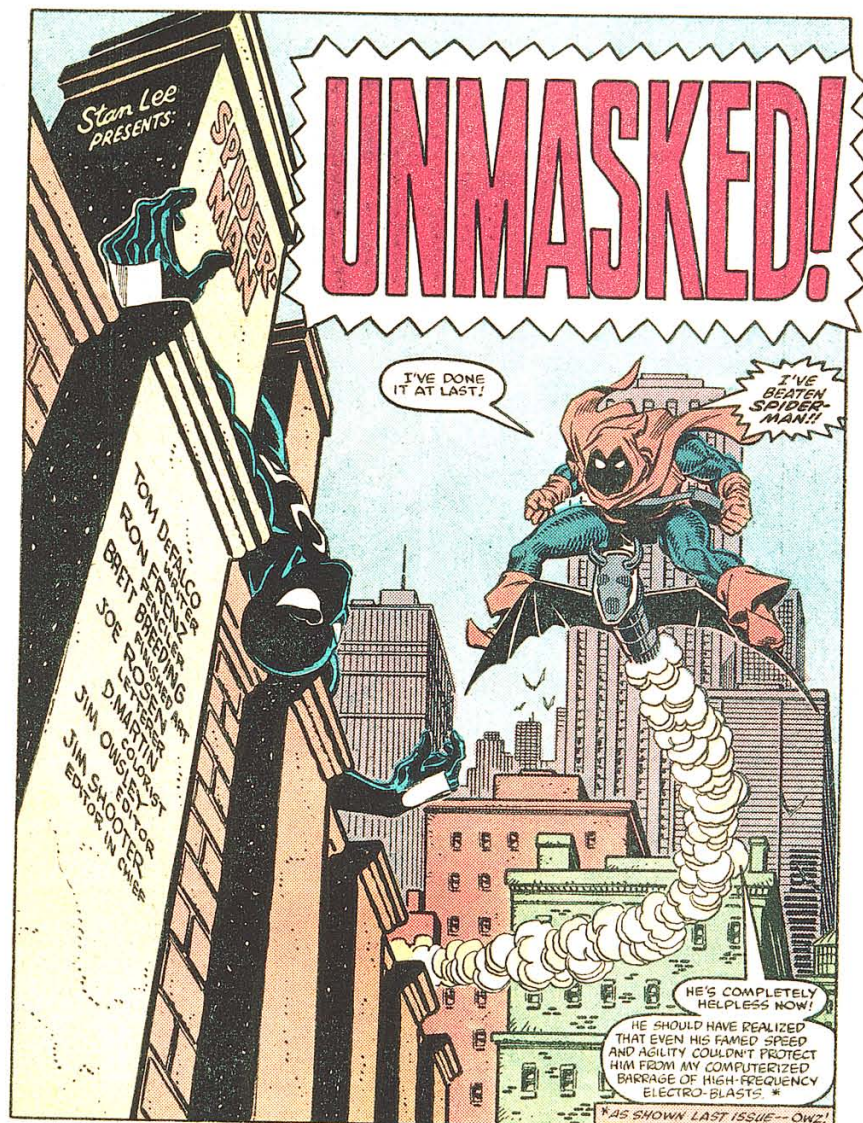


THE **FACE**  
BENEATH  
THE **MASK!**

AT  
LAST!

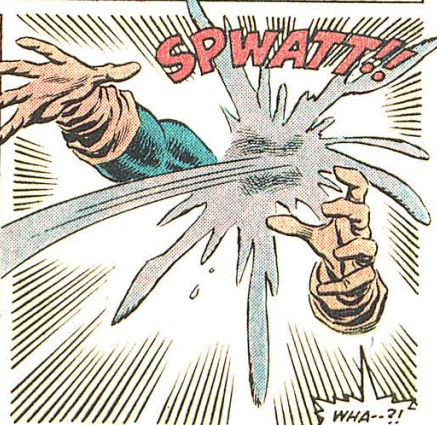
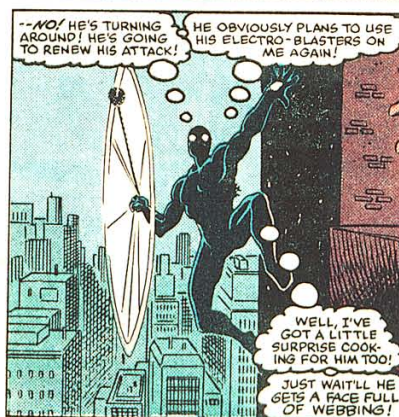
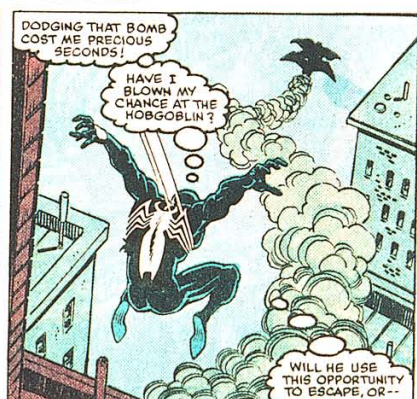
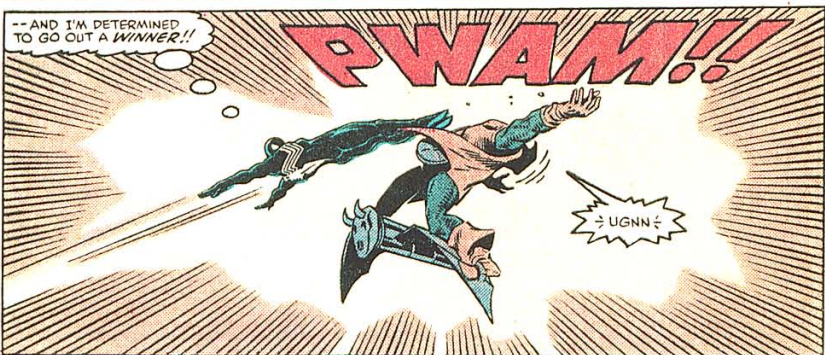
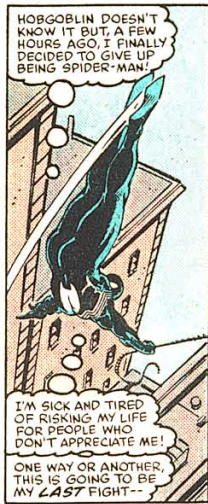
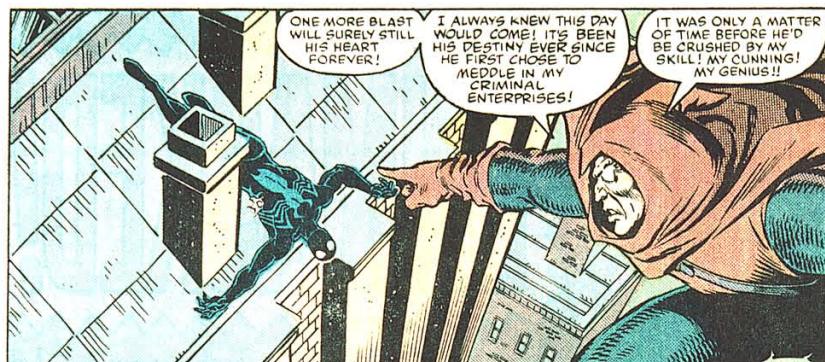


PACKS OF FUN  
FOR EVERYONE!

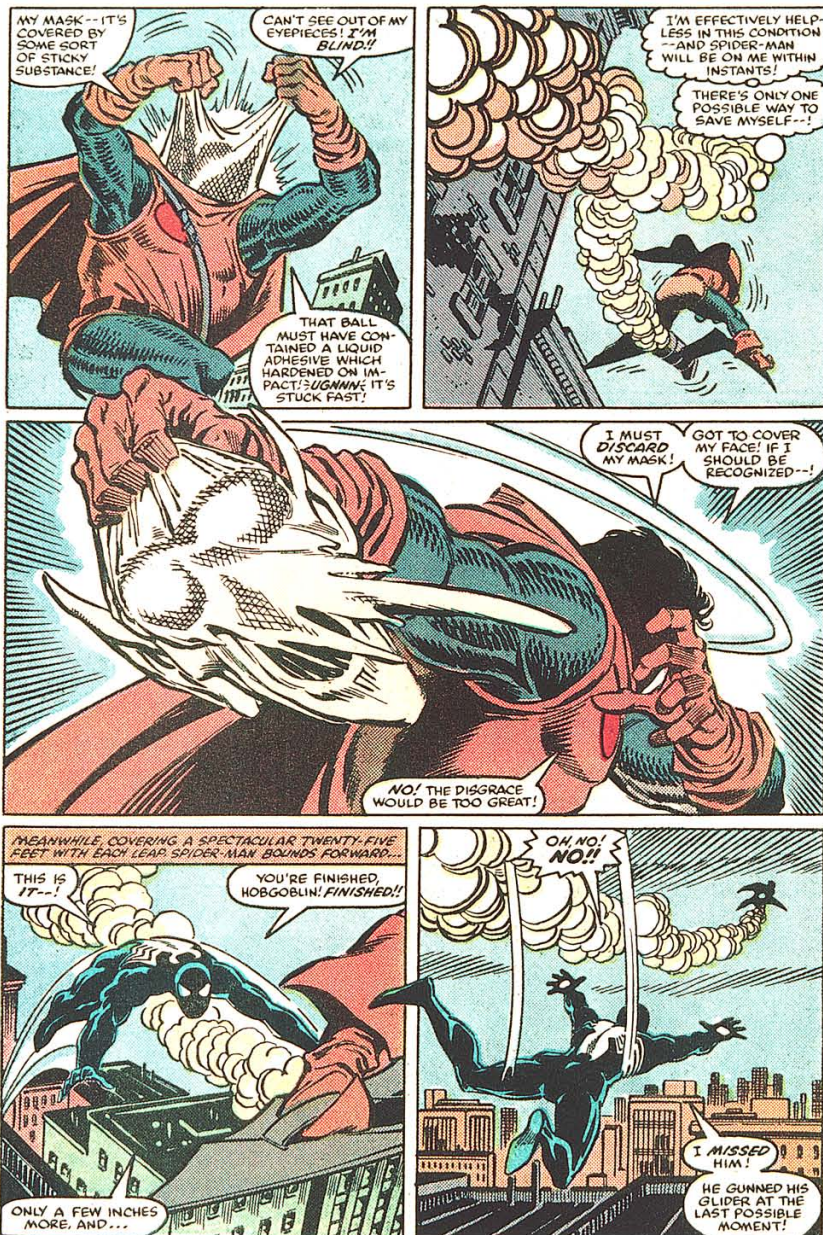


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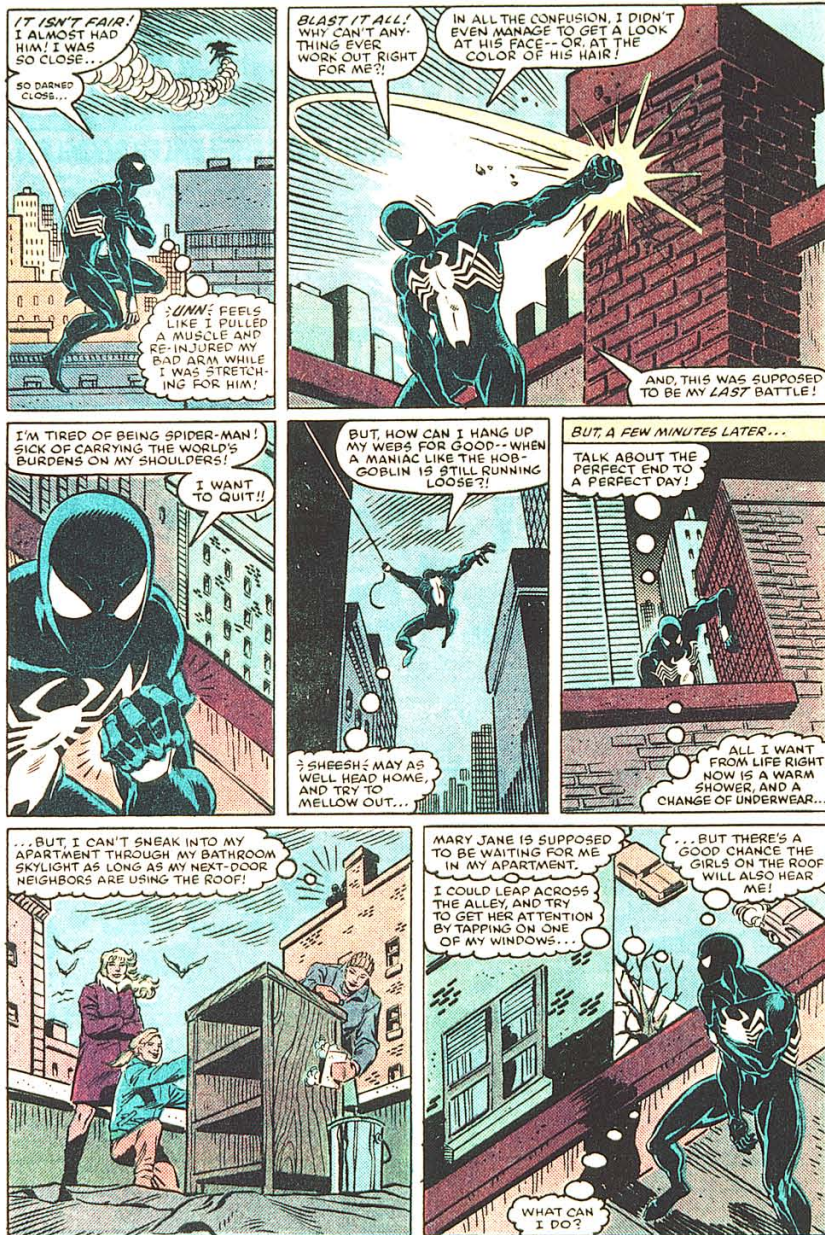
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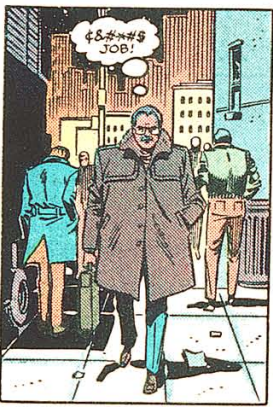
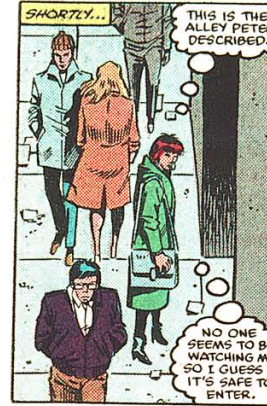
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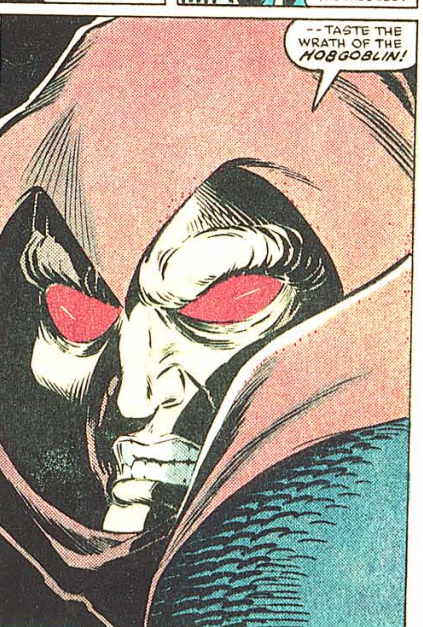
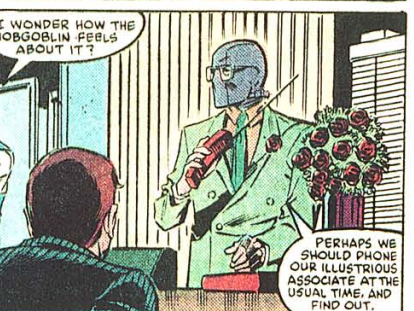
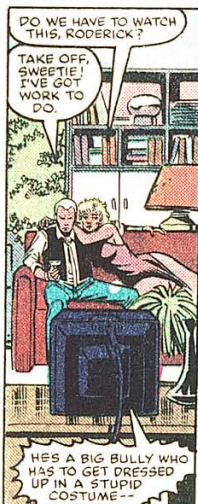
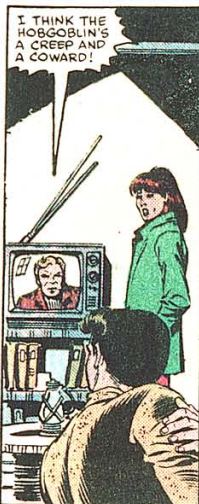
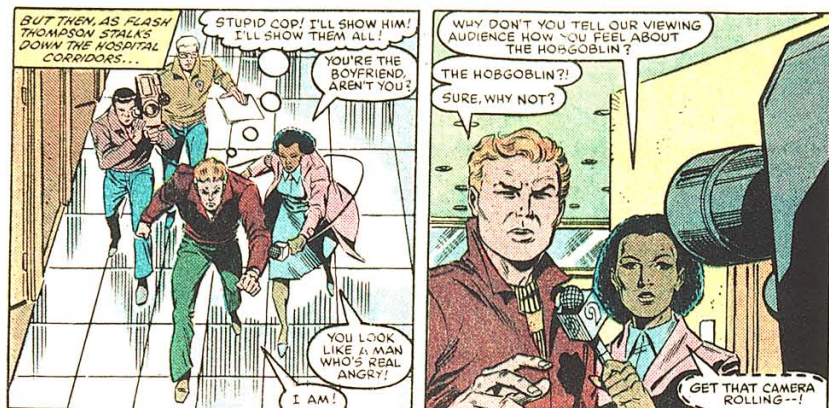
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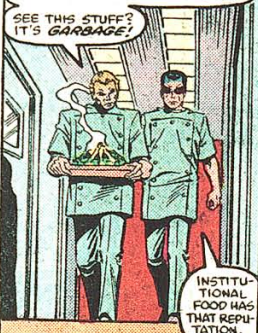


MEANWHILE, ACROSS TOWN, AT THE  
BWAINSTEN PSYCHIATRIC CENTER  
FOR THE CRIMINALLY MALADJUSTED.



YOU'RE NEW HERE,  
AIN'TCHA?

WELL, YOU'RE REALLY GONNA LOVE  
THIS PLACE! GOT A FULL COMPLIMENT  
OF LOONIES AND WEIRDOS, WE DO!



SEE THIS STUFF?  
IT'S GARBAGE!

INSTITUTIONAL  
FOOD HAS  
THAT REPUTATION.

NAH... I MEAN IT REALLY IS GARBAGE  
-- POTATO PEELINGS, BANANA SKINS,  
ROTTED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES!

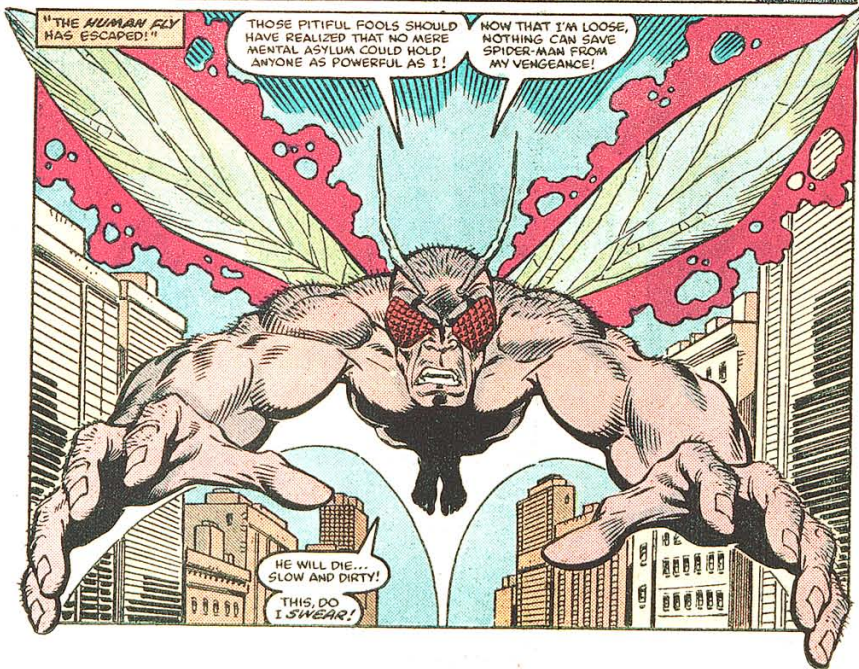


SOMEONE  
EATS THAT STUFF?!

YEAH, OUR STAR  
ATTRACTION POP  
THE LOCK, AND FEAST  
YOUR EYES ON--



OHMIGOSH!  
HE'S GONE--



"THE HUMAN FLY  
HAS ESCAPED!"

THOSE PITIFUL FOOLS SHOULD  
HAVE REALIZED THAT NO MERE  
MENTAL ASYLUM COULD HOLD  
ANYONE AS POWERFUL AS I!

NOW THAT I'M LOOSE,  
NOTHING CAN SAVE  
SPIDER-MAN FROM  
MY VENGEANCE!

HE WILL DIE...  
SLOW AND DIRTY!

THIS, DO  
I SWEAR!

ELSEWHERE, AT  
THAT PRECISE  
MOMENT...



ARE YOU OUT OF  
YOUR EVER-LOVING  
MIND?!

WHAT DO YOU  
MEAN YOU'RE GOING  
BACK OUT THERE  
AFTER THE HOBGOBLIN?



HE ALMOST KILLED YOU  
EARLIER TODAY!

GET OFF  
MY BACK,  
LADY!

THIS IS SOME-  
THING I'VE GOT  
TO DO!



DON'T PLAY  
MR. MACHO  
WITH ME,  
PETER PARKER!  
YOU TOLD ME  
THAT YOU  
WERE FINISHED  
AS SPIDER-  
MAN!

LEAVE THE HOBGOBLIN  
TO THE PROFESSIONALS  
--THE REAL SUPER  
HEROES LIKE THE  
FANTASTIC FOUR  
AND THE AVENGERS!

I CAN'T!



TOO MUCH HAS  
HAPPENED BETWEEN  
THE HOBGOBLIN AND ME!

THIS IS PERSONAL!  
I HAVE TO BE THE  
ONE WHO STOPS  
HIM!



YOU ONCE TOLD ME  
THAT YOU ORIGINALLY  
BECAME SPIDER-MAN  
OUT OF A SENSE OF  
RESPONSIBILITY...



WHAT ABOUT YOUR  
RESPONSIBILITY  
TO YOURSELF?

WHEN DO YOU GET  
A CHANCE TO LIVE  
YOUR OWN LIFE?

YOU REALLY DON'T  
UNDERSTAND, DO YOU?!



THE HOBGOBLIN IS MY  
PROBLEM! IF I WALK AWAY  
NOW, I'LL ALWAYS FEEL  
RESPONSIBLE FOR EVERY  
CRIME HE EVER COMITS--  
EVERY PERSON HE EVER  
HURTS!



I CAN'T LIVE LIKE THAT,  
MARY JANE. I CAN'T  
HAVE THAT HANGING  
OVER MY HEAD.

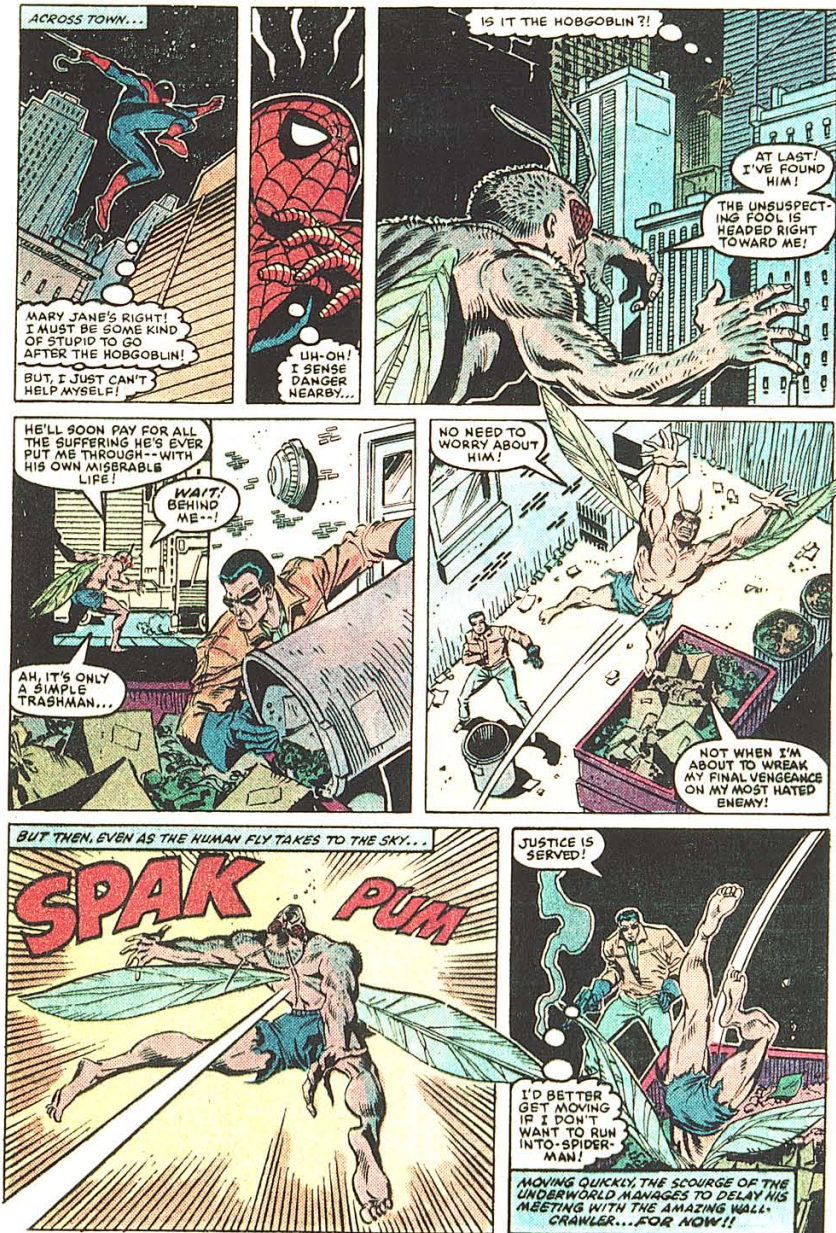
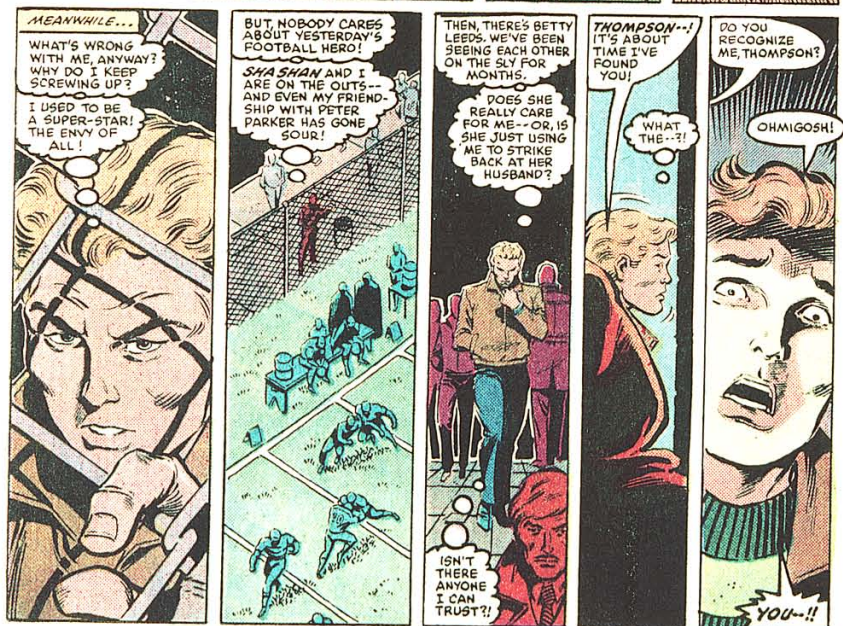
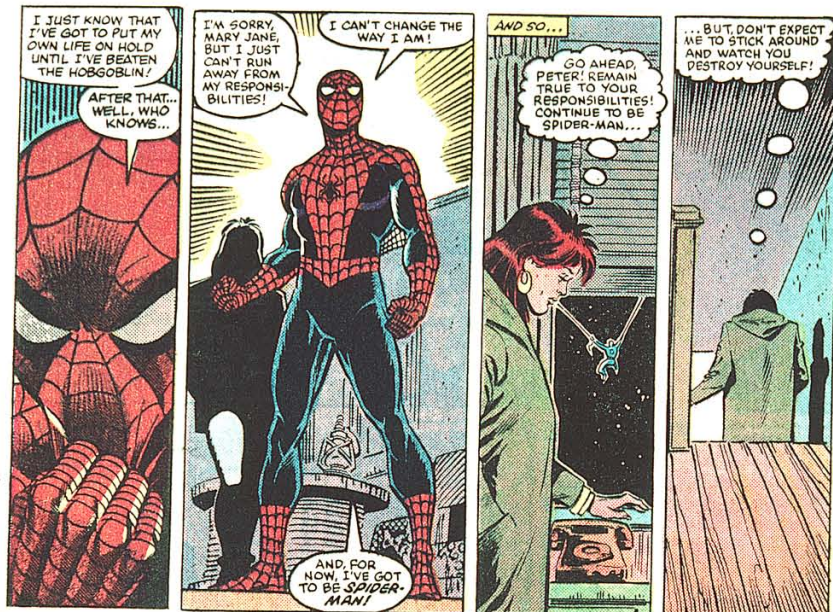


WHAT ABOUT AFTER  
THE HOBGOBLIN?  
WHAT ARE YOU GOING  
TO DO THE NEXT TIME  
DOCTOR OCTOPUS  
OR THE VULTURE  
MENACES THE  
CITY?

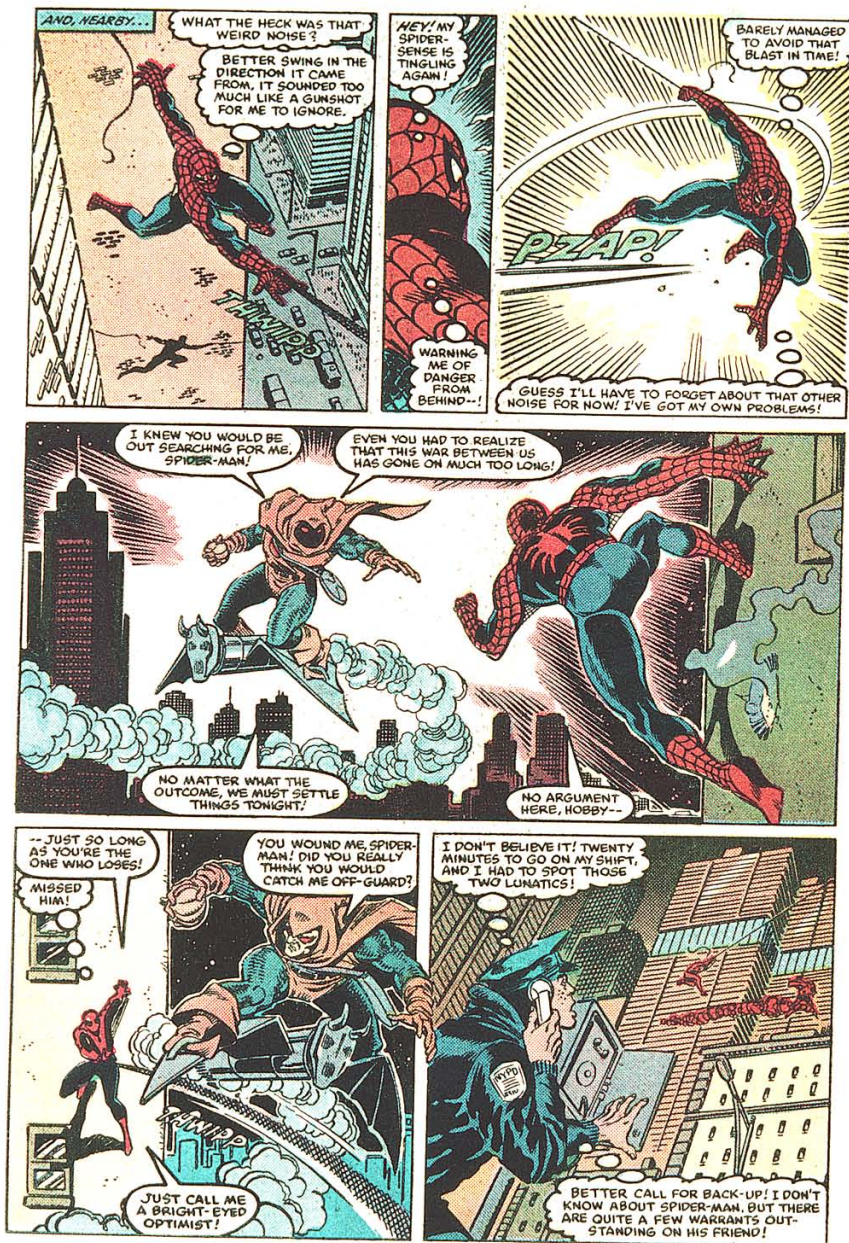
I...DON'T  
KNOW.

I CAN'T THINK  
THAT FAR AHEAD.

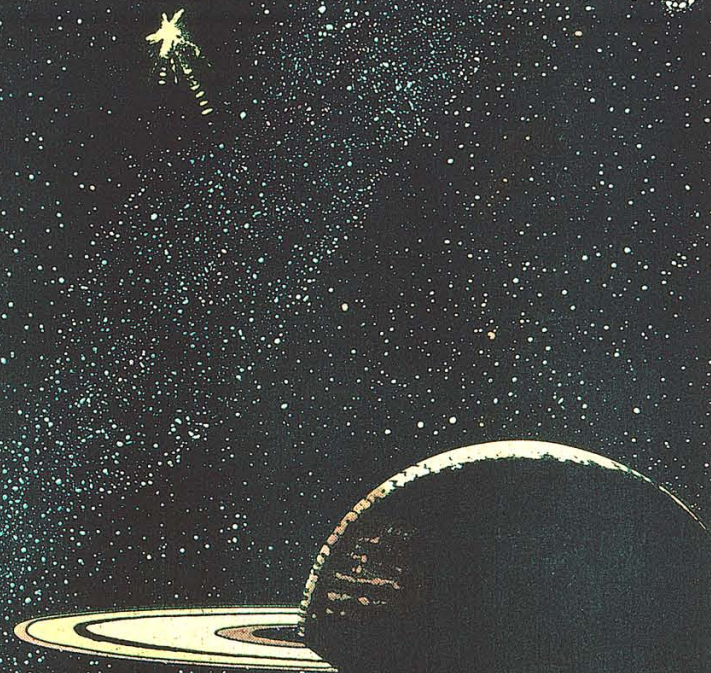








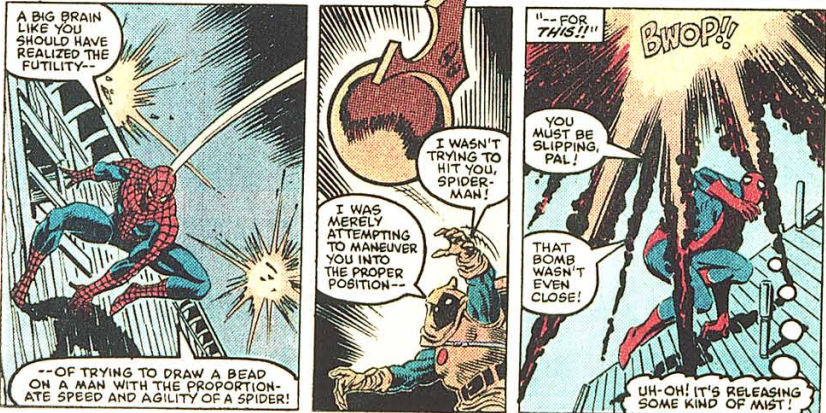
# 1961—THE MARVEL UNIVERSE



# 1986—THE NEW UNIVERSE!

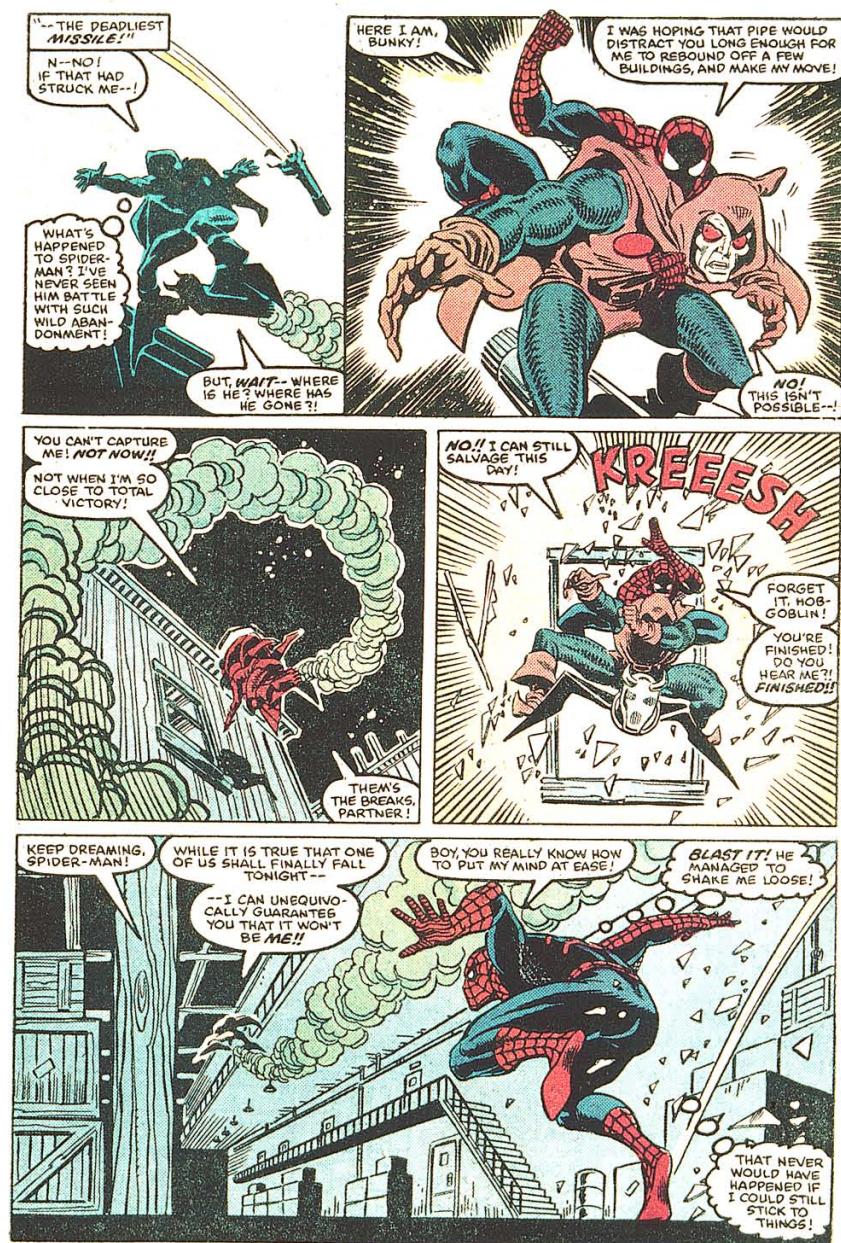
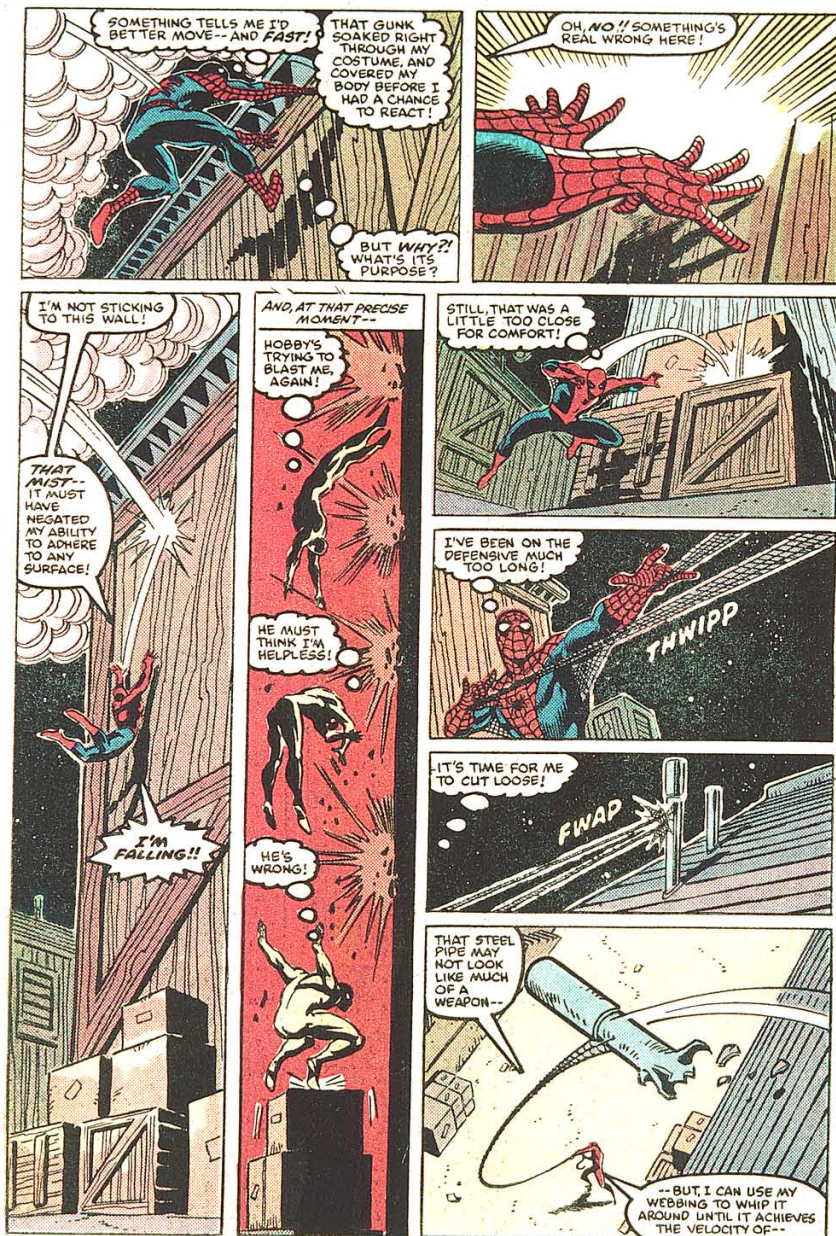
IT ALL BEGINS THIS SUMMER.





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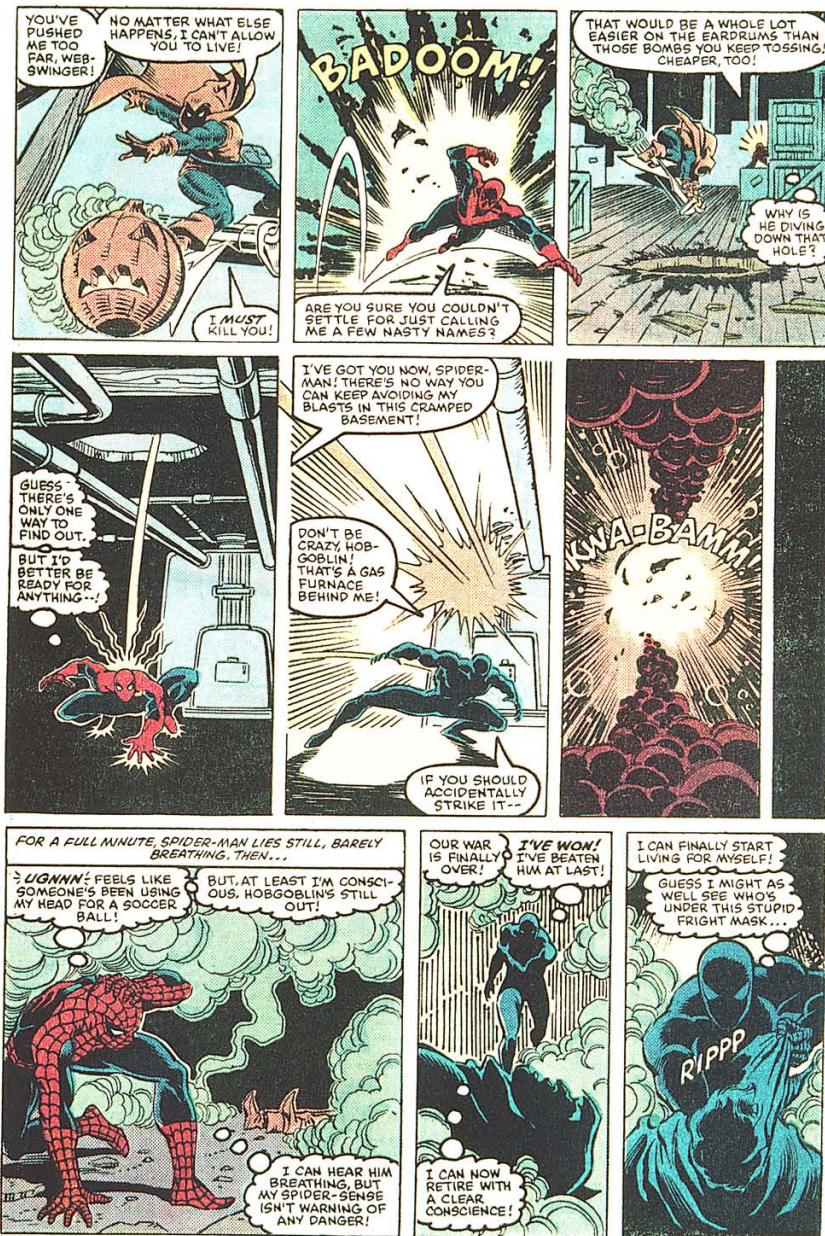
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# BULLPEN BULLETINS

IT'S

1986!  
MARVEL'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY!

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Way back in August of 1961, when pop-sicles were six cents, Tossin' and Turnin' Bobby Lewis was the number one hit single, and nobody had ever heard of Viet Nam, *Fantastic Four* #1 appeared on the newsstands. That historic issue marked the beginning of the Marvel Universe, and the launching of the Marvel Comics Group. We were one of the smallest comic companies then, but we took off like a starship and quickly grew into one of the biggies. Now, as we approach our twenty-fifth birthday, we're the largest comics publisher in the Western World—and we did it the old-fashioned way. We earned it.

All this year we'll be celebrating our anniversary with special issues and events

—watch the checklist for details—but the big event is coming up in the summer. And what is that?  
Drum roll, please...

IN HONOR OF THE  
TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE CREATION  
OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE  
WE ARE CREATING...  
A NEW UNIVERSE!

It will be the comics event of the century. Yes, the century. Watch for it.

*Jim Shooter*  
Jim Shooter  
Editor in Chief

## CHECK LIST

- ☐ **THING #34**
- ☐ **DAREDEVIL #229**
- ☐ **NEW MUTANTS #38**
- ☐ **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #13**
- ☐ **WEST COAST AVENGERS #7**
- ☐ **SQUADRON SUPREME (Limited Series) #8**—Hyperion vs. ... Hyperion!
- ☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #316**—Guest starring Hawkeye!
- ☐ **POWER PACK #21**
- ☐ **MICRONAUTS #19**—Baron Zarra is back!
- ☐ **DOCTOR STRANGE #76**—By the Eye of Vishanti, 'tis a new creative team! Check it out!
- ☐ **VISION AND SCARLET WITCH (Limited Series) #7**—Featuring the Sub-Mariner!
- ☐ **FIRESTAR (Limited Series) #2**
- ☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #275**—Special giant-size issue, featuring a rare reprint of Spider's origin from *Amazing Fantasy* #15!
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR INDEX #5**—Re-telling the incredible events in issues #65-84!
- ☐ **THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #5**—Meet everyone from Gargoyle to Howard the Duck!
- ☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT #33**—Guest starring Wolverine!
- ☐ **INCREDIBLE HULK #318**—Introducing the Hulk Gueststar!
- ☐ **AVENGERS #266**—A special

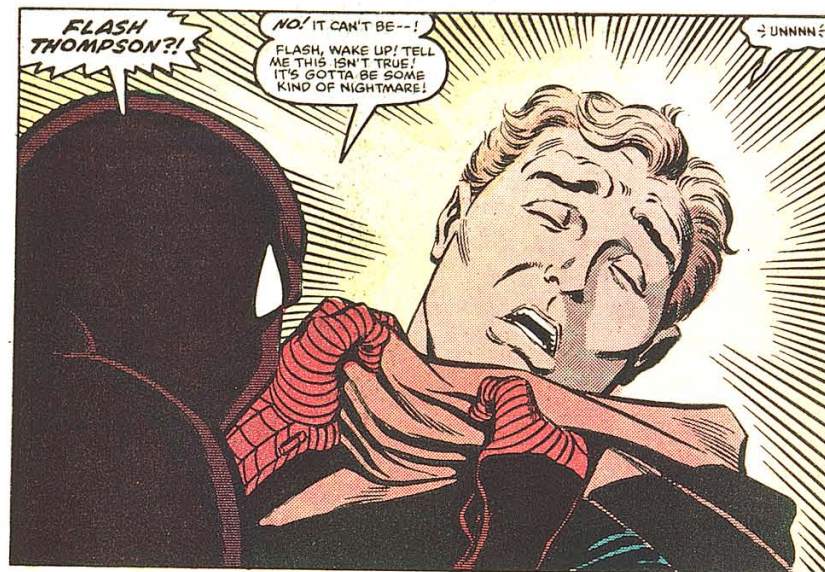
- epilogue to *Secret Wars II*, featuring the Silver Surfer!
- ☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN #181**
- ☐ **MARVEL TALES #186**
- ☐ **X-MEN #204**
- ☐ **G.I. JOE #46**
- ☐ **ETERNALS (Limited Series) #7**
- ☐ **PUNISHER (Limited Series) #4**
- ☐ **MARVEL SAGA #5**—Including the origins of Loki and the Wizard (bad guys), and Angel and the Iceman (good guys)!
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #289**
- ☐ **IRON MAN #205**
- ☐ **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #113**
- ☐ **THOR #386**—Beware the wrath of the Thunder Frog!
- ☐ **X-FACTOR #3**—There's a big change in store for the Beast!
- ☐ **TRANSFORMERS #15**
- ☐ **MARVEL TEAM-UP INDEX #3**—Meet the amazing Spider-Friends from issues #24-50!
- ☐ **DOCTOR WHO #19**

- MARVEL MAGAZINES**
- ☐ **MARVEL AGE #37**—A special look at the 25th Anniversary of Marvel Comics!
- ☐ **Savage Sword of Conan #122**

- EPIC COMICS**
- ☐ **GROO THE WANDERER #14**
- ☐ **SISTERHOOD OF STEEL #8**—The Queen is dead, and that's not all!

- ☐ **BOZZ CHRONICLES #2**
- ☐ **DREADSTAR #23**
- ☐ **ELFQUEST #9**—The quest begins!
- ☐ **ALIEN LEGION #12**—Welcome STROMAN and EMBERLIN, the Legion's new art team!
- ☐ **SIX FROM SIRIUS II (Limited Series) #3**
- ☐ **STARSTRUCK #6**
- STAR COMICS**
- ☐ **THUNDERCATS #3**—Beware Mumm-Ra!
- ☐ **MISTY (Limited Series) #3**—Special Christmas issue!
- ☐ **HEATHCLIFF #7**—Hey, look at that super-elastic kitty-cat!
- ☐ **TOP DOG #7**—Guest starring Royal Roy!
- ☐ **FRAGGLE ROCK #7**—Who wants to be Junior Gong's friend?
- ☐ **DROIDS #1**—The stars of the "Star Wars" movies and Saturday morning tv are now starring in their own Star Comic! That's right, it's R2D2 and C3PO! Yay!

- GRAPHIC NOVEL**
- ☐ **GN #22: MARADA THE SHE-WOLF**—Direct from the pages of *EPIC ILLUSTRATED* and in color for the first time! Find out why people have been talking about this tale of enchantment and swordplay in the days of the Roman Empire! Written by CHRIS CLAREMONT, painted by JOHN BOLTON.





LATER, AFTER OBTAINING THE NECESSARY WARRANTS, THE POLICE ARRIVE AT FLASH THOMPSON'S APARTMENT...

SEARCH EVERYTHING! WE'RE GONNA NEED SOME HARD EVIDENCE TO HELP NAIL THIS GUY!

START WITH THE BEDROOM CLOSET!

YOU MUST BE PSYCHIC, CAPTAIN KEATING.

CHECK THIS OUT--!

LOOKS LIKE WE HIT THE JACKPOT, BOYS!

EVEN D.A. TOWER HIMSELF WILL HAVE TO ADMIT THAT THIS LITTLE ARSENAL CLINCHES IT--

--THE THOMPSON KID IS DEFINITELY THE HOBGOBLIN!

THE THOMPSON KID IS DEFINITELY THE HOBGOBLIN!

CAN IT REALLY BE TRUE?

IS FLASH GUILTY?!

WHAT AM I GOING TO DO? I'VE KNOWN FLASH SINCE HIGH SCHOOL. I CAN'T DESERT HIM NOW!

AND, YET WHY SHOULD I ATTEMPT TO HELP A MAN WHO'S BEEN TRYING TO KILL ME?!

ELSEWHERE, AT THAT VERY MOMENT...

SPIDER-MAN REALLY HAD ME CONCERNED FOR A FEW MINUTES THERE... BUT EVERYTHING ACTUALLY FELL INTO PLACE!

FRAMING THOMPSON WAS A STROKE OF GENIUS!

SERVES HIM RIGHT! IT WOULDN'T HAVE OCCURRED TO ME IF HE HADN'T OPENED HIS BIG MOUTH ON TELEVISION!

THANKS TO THE EVIDENCE I'VE PLANTED, THE AUTHORITIES MUST BE CONVINCED THAT THEY HAVE THE RIGHT MAN--

...BUT I GUESS IT COULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED TO A MORE DESERVING FELLOW!

SPIDER-MAN REALLY HAD ME CONCERNED FOR A FEW MINUTES THERE... BUT EVERYTHING ACTUALLY FELL INTO PLACE!

SPIDER-MAN REALLY HAD ME CONCERNED FOR A FEW MINUTES THERE... BUT EVERYTHING ACTUALLY FELL INTO PLACE!

IT'S A REAL SHAME THAT THOMPSON WILL HAVE TO TAKE A FALL...

THE END... FOR NOW!



## THE SPIDER'S WEB

JIM OWSLEY  
EDITOR  
ADAM BLAUSTEIN  
ASSISTANT EDITOR

## VIEW FROM THE TENTH FLOOR

Call me Blaustein, I'm assistant editor to Jim Owsley, and I've got a beef with some of you out there.

One of the thousand things my boss has me do around here is sorting through the tons of mail we receive. A lot of this incoming mail regards the secret identity of a certain nefarious ne'er-do-well named Hobgoblin! To make my job just a bit easier, and to clear up any confusion, here is a list of various readers' guesses concerning Hobby's alter ego, NONE OF THEM ARE CORRECT.

- Liz Osborn (or, Harry, for that matter).
- Gwen Stacy's clone
- Captain Stacy (Gwen's father)
- Captain Stacy's clone
- Peter Parker's clone
- Nathan Lubensky
- Howard Mackie
- Ernie Papoph
- John Jameson
- John Jameson's clone
- The son of John Jameson's clone & Gwen Stacy's clone
- Aunt May
- Wolverine

I repeat, NONE OF THESE GUESSES ARE CORRECT. As for who the Hobgoblin truly is, all I can say is the clues are here. And there. And everywhere, you figure it out.

Have a party, Adam Blaustein

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Marvel Comics Group, 387 Park Avenue South,  
New York, N.Y. 10016. Please include your name  
and address. We will, however, withhold them  
upon request.

Dear Web-Spinners,  
WOW! INCREDIBLE! WHAT A TREAT! I LOVED IT! I've never seen such a fantastic issue. You guys outdid yourselves on this one! AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #274 was terrific! The best penciling I've seen in years! The best script, the best color, best lettering. I hope you keep it up for a long time!

Bringing back all those lost souls to haunt Spider-Man was sheer genius! The manifestation of the power of vengeance (or is it "Vengeance") was truly amazing! I even began to get lost in the magazine; it became my reality for a few short moments. I hope we can do it again some time!

Well, now that I have made my questions public, I'd also like to thank the gang for giving me such enjoyment each month! And till the Silver Surfer joins a motorcycle gang, MAKE MINE MARVEL!!!

Brian Palmateer  
15876 Donald Rd.  
Capac, MI 48014

Dear ASM,  
Well, I figure it's about time I got into the guess-who-the-Hobgoblin-is game. To start, let's evaluate what we know about him. He is a caucasian male. He has a fairly sophisticated speech pattern, indicating education. He must be fairly well-known in the New York criminal underworld. Remember, the petty crook who found Osborn's sewer hideout went to get him. He said, "Yeah, I figured a dude like you'd be interested!" He probably has a fair degree of wealth, seeing as how he can afford all the sophisticated and doubtless expensive equipment and weaponry he uses.

Considering all this eliminates most of the more popular guesses. Lance Bannon, J. Jonah Jameson, and Steve Ditko. Well, maybe Steve Ditko. Anyhow, this leaves two men. One, Men-Del Stromm, fits more perfectly than my other guess, except for one thing. He's bald, and the Hobgoblin has a full head of hair. Therefore, it can only be one man, much as I dislike it. Envelope, please. Yes, the Hobgoblin is ... ANOTHER CLONE OF PROF. WARREN! Well? Am I right or am I right? Till Stan Lee shaves his mustache, make mine Marvel!!!!!!

David Metz  
2952 N. Stowell Ave.  
Milwaukee, WI 53211

Wrong.

Dear Jim, Keith, and Tom,  
I don't see what's wrong with Peter keeping the gold notebook. I've noticed that a lot of people are against his keeping the object in question and I think that those people are completely heartless. Good old Pete has been through the ringer many times trying to get pictures to pay for his money problems such as paying rent, and helping his Aunt May. Let's face it, living in New York City can't be cheap, the cost of food, clothing, and utilities are always on the uprise. Plus Peter's gotta have money to take Mary Jane and others out. I say he should keep it and invest it--slowly, of course. Peter could have up some sort of company that could help him in times of need and also help his Aunt May and her financial problems.

Got it? Good!  
I hope you guys don't do anything cheap like have the pad stolen or something similar. Let's face it, you said this would change his life. To have it taken from him or have him lose it in any way is to have made it a big waste of time. The idea was good so do something positive for Spider-Man. OK? OK!

Mike Moscoso  
5519 Beaconsfield  
Burke, VA 22015

Dear Web-Heads,  
I have just recently finished issue #274. Before I comment on the story, I would like to say a few words concerning the letters page. After reading all of those letters from longtime Marvel fans praising Spider-Man, I realized just how much I love Marvel comics. A character like Spider-Man, who has been around as long as Marvel has, constantly needs new ideas to keep its readers interested. The creative team of Tom DeFalco and Ron Frenz keeps a steady flow of excellent story and art of such quality to make the Amazing Spider-Man my favorite title. Thank you, gentlemen.

Now let's on with issue #274. Should I buy sixty or seventy copies? I love Spider-Man's role in SECRET WARS II. Once more the fate of the universe lies within Peter Parker, and once again, he proves himself worthy of that responsibility. While Spider-Man suffers unspeakable torture from Zarathos, the Beyonder considers whether the universe is worthy of its existence. But, once again, Spider-Man shows his superiority over a foe so powerful that one would think someone like Thor would be a worthy opponent. This makes me wonder why Captain America, who has no superhuman powers, gets more recognition than Spider-Man. Villains like Finfroid and Zarathos could wipe the floor with Cap. I know it's futile to request that Spider-Man be given more credit, but I might as well try. Nevertheless, I am one of Spider-Man's biggest fans, and I plan to stay that way. I've written several times to various titles, but never have I had a letter printed. So, if you see it in your hearts to print this, I would be eternally grateful. So, until Aunt May gets a mohawk, Make Mine Marvel.

Chris Thomas  
3119 Roy Pom Dr.  
Louisville, KY 40220

Dear Owz,  
In AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #272's "The Spider's Web" column you told Jake Loomis that the reason everyone's clothes did not turn to gold was that they all had had the good taste to wear natural fibers which are organic. Great suggestion! However ... two of the things I was taught in science are:

- 1) Trees are organic, and
- 2) Trees are ground up and mixed with glue to make paper. Ah ... oh ... if that's true, then we have another problem. Specifically, that the gold notebook that Spider-Man found (made primarily of organic paper) could not have turned to gold, except of course, the spiral binding (be it metal or plastic), the glue (if it were not made of organic animal's horns and hooves) and the ink.

I, on the other hand, was always aware that the notebook was made of an experimental chemical film, designed to replace paper and preserve our beautiful trees and had only accidentally been knocked into the wastebasket.

So ... how 'bout it, Owz, do I get the coveted No-Prize?

Chris Anderson  
23 Marren St.  
St. Catharines, ONT  
L2P-2J7

Yep.

Dear Spider-Team,  
I have read THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN and its counterparts for many years now. I feel that Spider-Man is one of the best things to come to Marvel Comics, and it improves as the years go by. I liked issue 274's format very much, especially for the cover/poster, but when I read what was in store for us in issue 275, I got really excited. Please do more cover/poster issues in future months. Also, in my local newspaper I read that next year, around Christmas, there was going to be a Spider-Man movie. Could you please tell me, will the movie have real actors or animated and what costume will he wear?

Geoffrey Hill Jr.  
Milltown, NJ 08850

As soon as we know anything, Geoffrey, we'll tell you and all the rest of our readers in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE.



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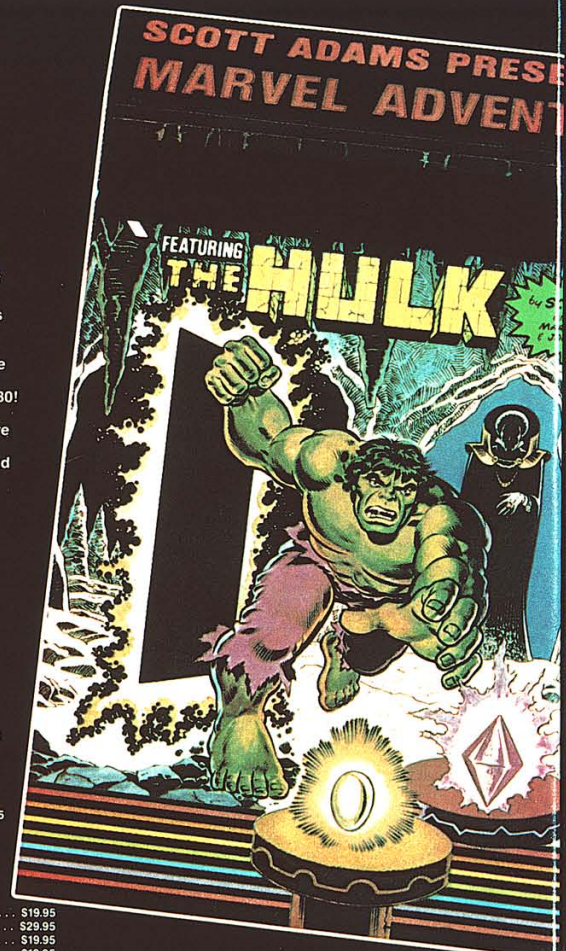
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